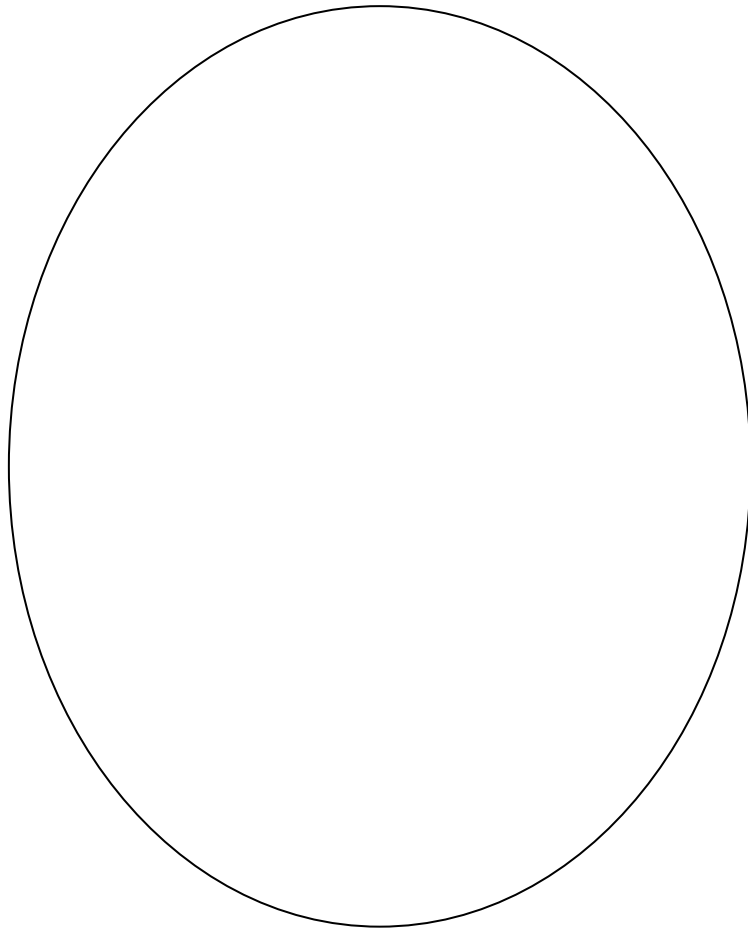
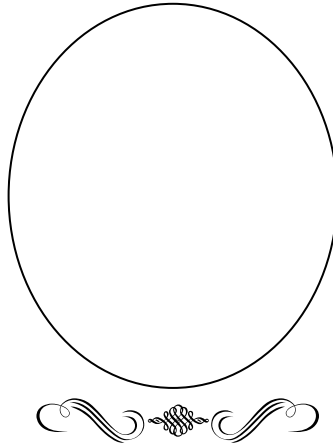


# *Biography*



# *Research Paper*

# Biography



**Is there someone in particular you would like to learn about?**

- A famous scientist? explorer? inventor? artist? musician?
- An adventurer such as someone who was stranded and nearly died crossing the mountains into California? The first person to climb to the top of Mt. Everest? the first to make it to the North Pole? the explorers of interior Africa?
- A kid who has become famous?
- The first female doctor in the USA-Elizabeth Blackwell?
- An astronaut? the first person to walk on the moon?
- a world leader: Abraham Lincoln, Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar, Joan of Arc, Genghis Khan, Napoleon--the leader who blew off the nose of the Sphinx?
- a Civil Rights Leader such as Martin Luther King, Jr.? Sojourner Truth? Rosa Parks? Mother Theresa?
- someone who overcame adversity such as Helen Keller?

You may want to glance through *100 Famous Women (or Men) Who Shaped World History* to see if any of them appeal to you.

## Who are you interested in studying and when did they live?

Check out at least 3 books from the library. Write bibliographic information here:

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
Author's Last Name Author's First Name

\_\_\_\_\_°  
Title of the Book (underlined)

\_\_\_\_\_° \_\_\_\_\_° \_\_\_\_\_°  
City it was published Publishing Company's Name Copyright Year

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
Author's Last Name Author's First Name

\_\_\_\_\_°  
Title of the Book (underlined)

\_\_\_\_\_° \_\_\_\_\_° \_\_\_\_\_°  
City it was published Publishing Company's Name Copyright Year

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
Author's Last Name Author's First Name

\_\_\_\_\_°  
Title of the Book (underlined)

\_\_\_\_\_° \_\_\_\_\_° \_\_\_\_\_°  
City it was published Publishing Company's Name Copyright Year

Find 2 internet websites that have information about this person:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

## **Context:**

Before you start doing too much research, find out when this person lived and jot down some of the major world events happened at the time your person was alive. Do you understand the period in which your person was alive (a time of slavery? a time before electricity? etc.) Ask an expert (teacher/parent) to describe that period in more detail.

**What do you want to know?** Spend some time thinking about what you would want to know about your topic. Questioning is at the heart of research. Many authors begin their study with a topic with a question they have. If you ask questions in your writing, you draw the reader in and help place your readers in your writing.

## **Research and take notes on your person's life:**

**Early Life:** When did they live? What kind of person was he/she? Did this person know what they would become? How did his/her childhood influence his/her later life?

**Research your person's life work:** What did he/she do? Was he/she famous for the work she did at the time? What did the public think of him/her? How did he/she change the world? Did he/she invent something? Become a powerful leader?

**Find a couple of really interesting points that you didn't know before...** Is there a story about your person that would make a terrific "hook" at the beginning of your paper? What is special/unique and intriguing about your person?

**Lasting influences:** What should we all know about your person? How were we affected by his/her life? Do we benefit from his/her work? What was the most impressive thing about your person's life? Were you inspired by this person?

**Checklist of research points:**

- early life
- character traits
- significant events
- contributions

**Citing Sources:** We are not going to include footnotes in this paper, but it is illegal and unethical to steal other people's writing. You want to keep track of where you got certain facts and ideas because at a later time, you'll need to put that information into your research paper.

# Writing Your Biography

**Follow the 6 writing traits:**

**Ideas:** make sure you do your reading and know your topic! Get to know a lot about your person by reading LOTS of different books and resources. Take notes so you don't forget the fun/neat stuff you learn!

**Organization:** Before you begin writing your biography, pull out some quirky, interesting facts and tidbits about your person. Jot down all those memorable facts and ideas you've learned and think about how you want to organize your paper.

Your biography doesn't have to start at the beginning... John Smith was born on Feb. 1, blah in Blahtown. Start with a kind of beginning.



Perhaps draw the reader in with the setting, time period and a short anecdote. Do you have a "secret to share"? That technique can intrigue your reader... Many people think that... but really...

**Word Choice, Details and Description:** Remember to use lively verbs and elaborate details to help create a picture in the mind of your reader of what your person was like, what triumphs he/she overcame, etc. Don't just tell the reader, "This was the time before electricity" ... show what life was like... Describing the use of candles, small lamps, horses... etc.

**Transitions:** Think about how to move from one topic to another and to make sure your paper flows smoothly.

**Non Fiction Writing Features:** Think about what features might really support your project. Think about including some of these:

Table of Contents, Index, Glossary, Charts, Tables, Graphs, Maps, Time Lines, Photos or Pictures, Diagrams with labels, Cartoon Drawings, Close-ups, Cutaways, etc.

What is a primary and secondary source?



Decide who you would like to research. Create a wanted poster that explains why this person is wanted!

- Genghis Khan
- Attila the Hun
- Nero
- Billy the Kid
- Jesse James
- Napoleon
- Ivan the Terrible
- Elizabeth Bathory
- Al Capone
- Talat Pasha
- Josefe Megele
- Maximilien Robespierre
- Josef Stalin
- Ayatollah Khomeini
- Emperor Hirohito
- Idi Amin
- Pol Pot



# First Place Winner!



You have been appointed chairman of the prize committee. Find someone in history that deserves a first place prize. Decide what category they should win (art, science, athletics, music, peace) and write a brief newspaper article explaining who won the prize and what their achievements were:

Make sure your newspaper article draws in the readers! (No boring writing!!)

Science

Art

Music

Peace

Marie Curie

Michelangelo

Beethoven

Gandhi

Albert Einstein Pablo Picasso

Bach Martin Luther King, Jr.

**Plays to Read Aloud:** *10 Women Who Helped Shape America*

Read Elizabeth Blackwell: The Word No Never Stopped Her with the kids.

**Other plays in that book:** *Francisca Hineztrosa, Pocahontas, Anne Hutchins, Nancy Ward, Lucy Stone, Ellen Craft, Ida B. Wells-Barnett, Queen Liliuokalani*

**Short One Page Biographies:** *100 Famous Women Who Shaped World History, 100 Famous Men Who Shaped World History*